

STAT

An Improved Intelligence Service

Under the direction of General W. B. Smith, America finally is emerging with a greatly improved intelligence service. This month, upwards of 100 honor graduates from this nation's universities open special training. There will be a fifth women and the remainder young men, some of whom have worked hard for higher degrees awarded in the better universities.

Spying as it is done today departs far afield from the old cloak and dagger type operator, or the beautiful women assigned to Paris and other gay places to try to learn secrets at diplomatic and other parties. The flow of information coming into capitals of many nations today is largely on the routine scientific side. Engineers play an important part in assembling economic material.

Intelligence service long has been the favorite assignment of General Smith. Emerging from World war I, as a second lieutenant, he applied for duty in the intelligence course. He was asked one question—what is your private income. It was as near nothing as possible and was not augmented much by his lieutenant's pay of about \$141 a month. He was turned down because intelligence officers then were supposed to have the money to stage and attend gay parties. The theory was the secrets flowed in proportion to the amount of liquor consumed. Un- daunted, he studied methods of foreign lands at every opportunity. Thirty years later he was named to head the service. And, he has already been credited with a remarkable record. The young men and women he is currently recruiting will prove a real aid in improving the service.

Back in World war I, the American intelligence service abroad was suddenly expanded down to the regimental level. First regular army outfits arriving in France were ordered to adopt the French infantry division setup, calling for companies of 250 men each with a headquarters company of more than 300 men. In that ungainly company one found an engineer platoon, signal corps, stokes mortar, one pound cannon and regimental headquarters divisions. And, there was an intelligence squad, headed usually by a second lieutenant, who had had no previous training in that work.

In one regiment in the fall of 1917, a second lieutenant was suddenly ordered to headquarters. The rainy season was on and the old colonel reflected the gloomy weather. He told the young officer to pick a squad with each member able to read and write, then draw the prescribed equipment. And what startling equipment there was. There was a regimental code book for use at the front, which anyone could decode with a little effort. There were rifles with telescopic sights. There were camouflage suits and instructions for carrying on that art. There were cameras of the vintage of 1917. And last, a horse for the lieutenant. In an infantry outfit a horse was regarded as quite a luxury. The old cavalry officer in charge of the regiment's few horses, had never heard of an intelligence officer, so he assigned a mule of which there was a plentiful supply. But, when at a regimental review the visiting general beheld the new intelligence officer mounted on a mule, there was such a commotion the remount officer wound up in arrest in quarters for violating the spirit of the enterprize. The lieutenant got a horse.

The first time the intelligence officer appeared at the front dressed in his best camouflage outfit a sentry arrested him, and was escorted under guard to an advance headquarters as a possible spy. As he looked like a man from another planet, an order went out to pass anyone with spots painted on his clothes and face, down to company level. The lieutenant had a terrible time staying up front, because the doughboys took keen delight in escorting him back to company headquarters on the ground he must be a spy.

All that has changed, and we assume intelligence officers no longer go about dressed like a circus clown, armed to the teeth and wearing spurs in case they need to ride their horses.

General Smith is to be congratulated on his effort to bring this nation's intelligence service up to the standards of foreign lands. Never in our history have we had such a service able to